

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Minoru SONOMURA, Masaki MIYAMOTO and Toshiaki MORITA
Int'l App. No.: PCT/JP2004/010729
Application No.: **NEW APPLICATION**
Filed: January 30, 2006
For: **WEFT KNITTING MACHINE HAVING MOVABLE SINKERS**
(as amended)

LETTER

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Mail Stop PCT

January 30, 2006

Sir:

Amended sheets are attached hereto (which correspond to Article 34 amendments or to claims attached to the International Preliminary Examination Report), as required by 35 U.S.C. § 371(c)(3). Please replace the corresponding original Specification pages included herewith with the Article 34 amended pages of the Specification. Please note that the Article 34 amended claims have been incorporated in the included Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:  #35,214

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DJD:bof

with the movable sinkers,

wherein the end portions, on a side of the area for knitting a knitted fabric, of the needle plates have recess portions for supporting the movable sinkers such that the movable sinkers can be swingingly displaced, and

wherein the movable sinkers have support portions that are supported by the recess portions, passive portions that are driven following a back and forth displacement with respect to the area for knitting a knitted fabric, and operation portions that operate as sinkers with respect to the area for knitting a knitted fabric when a back and forth displacement with respect to the passive portions is converted into a swinging displacement with the support portions serving as supporting points,

the weft knitting machine, comprising:

a sinker jack that is accommodated in each of the needle grooves, can be displaced forward into and backward from the area for knitting a knitted fabric, is engaged with the passive portion of the movable sinker at an end portion, has a butt projecting in a direction away from the base stage of the needle bed on a side of a base portion extending in a direction away from the area for knitting a knitted fabric with respect to the end portion, and has a groove that extends in a direction of the back and forth displacement in a middle between the end portion and the base portion and in a middle of the needle groove in a depth direction thereof;

a passing-through member that passes through each of the

are supported by the recess portions, passive portions that are driven following a back and forth displacement with respect to the area for knitting a knitted fabric, and operation portions that operate as sinkers with respect to the area for knitting a knitted fabric when a back and forth displacement with respect to the passive portions is converted into a swinging displacement with the support portions serving as supporting points,

wherein the knitting needle is disposed with the movable sinker side by side in a width direction in each of the needle grooves, and is a compound needle in which a needle main portion and a slider can be independently displaced forward into and backward from the area for knitting a knitted fabric, and

wherein each of the needle grooves includes:

a sinker jack that can be displaced forward into and backward from the area for knitting a knitted fabric, is engaged with the passive portion of the movable sinker at an end portion, has a butt projecting in a direction away from the base stage of the needle bed on a side of a base portion extending in a direction away from the area for knitting a knitted fabric with respect to the end portion, and has a groove that extends in a direction of the back and forth displacement in a middle between the end portion and the base portion and in a middle of the needle groove in a depth direction thereof,

a spacer that is disposed in a direction away from the base stage of the needle bed with respect to the knitting needle,

whose bottom portion regulates the knitting needle so as not

a knitted fabric, of the needles plates have recess portions for supporting the movable sinkers such that the movable sinkers can be swingingly displaced, and

wherein the movable sinkers have support portions that are supported by the recess portions, passive portions that are driven following a back and forth displacement with respect to the area for knitting a knitted fabric, and operation portions that operate as sinkers with respect to the area for knitting a knitted fabric when a back and forth displacement with respect to the passive portions is converted into a swinging displacement with the support portions serving as supporting points,

the weft knitting machine, comprising:

a sinker jack that is accommodated in each of the needle grooves, can be displaced forward into and backward from the area for knitting a knitted fabric, is engaged with the passive portion of the movable sinker at an end portion, has a butt projecting in a direction away from the base stage of the needle bed on a side of a base portion extending in a direction away from the area for knitting a knitted fabric with respect to the end portion, and has a groove that extends in a direction of the back and forth displacement in a middle between the end portion and the base portion and in a middle of the needle groove in a depth direction thereof,

a passing-through member that passes through each of the needle plates in a direction along the area for knitting a knitted

fabric, and is inserted into the cutout portion of the sinker